June 16, 1964

Dear Mr. Goodson,

Your sad experience is a rare one, one you undoubtedly had nothing to do with, and one probably having nothing whatever to do with disease. We are sorry to hear about it because from our own experiences we know how attached people can become to these most human of animals.

On the positive side, is it not true that the lives of all your students is just a little better, just a little richer, for it? And if so, then it was all very worthwhile.

Of course, you owe us nothing.

From your description, especially of the little one's behavior, I am satisfied he wasn't sick. By this I mean, he certainly had no disease. The most likely possibility it either that it picked up some glittering object, as they are wont to do, or was loved a little too vigorously, with consequent internal damage. I believe other possibilities are too remote.

When you get the opportunity, I'd appreciate it if you'd jot down the few notes I asked you to, about his behavior and that of the children.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg

PS. Nothing nutritional. And to answer your question about a handbook, when you want one I'll lend you one from Canada. Our government has nothing worthwhile on it and, as a matter of fact, both the University and Beltsville refer their rare waterfowl inquiries to me.